

# FLOOD FACTS

You can learn if you are within or near the floodplain by checking the City Website:

[http://www.harrisburgpa.gov/Downloads/Maps/Flood\\_Zone\\_Map.pdf](http://www.harrisburgpa.gov/Downloads/Maps/Flood_Zone_Map.pdf)

## FLOOD INSURANCE

Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. To make this protection available to you, the City of Harrisburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Contact any licensed casualty insurance agency for details.

Harrisburg also participates in the voluntary **Community Rating System** which has resulted in lower insurance rates for properties within the City: 20% reduction for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas (aka 100-year), 15% for non-SFHA properties.

## LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

Potential local flood hazards include the slow-rising Susquehanna River, the backup of creeks due to river height, or the failure of the Raystown Dam. Flash flooding can occur on Paxton Creek and Spring Creek.

Brochures available on the City Website or from the

Department of Building & Housing Development



## FLOODPLAIN

The City's website has a Flood Zone map. Use the magnifying glass tool to zoom to the level of addresses to learn if a property is in the flood plain or not.

If you do not have Internet access, call DBHD at 255-6419 or 255-6553 to find out.

Large paper maps are included in the Flood Protection Library at three public libraries in the City: 101 Walnut Street, 530 South 29th Street and 2410 North Third Street. The Library contains information on many flood related topics, including how to floodproof homes and other buildings, and how to repair flood damaged buildings.

## FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES

You can take property protection measures now to eliminate or reduce flood damage. Call the Building Inspector, 255-6553, for retrofitting information or on-site advice. The City will provide written information on repairs. While this assistance will also be available after a flood, the staff will be much busier and delays in obtaining technical assistance may occur.

## FLOOD WARNINGS

Flood warnings are broadcast on all local radio and television systems and Weather Radio. In addition, the City delivers written notices to places expected to be affected by Susquehanna River flooding. A special warning system alerts affected persons of impending flash flooding of the Paxton Creek through pre-recorded telephone messages. If time is insufficient, police cars will use the public address system or sound their sirens to alert affected areas.

## EVACUATION

Police cars will also be used to notify of evacuation. Before leaving, turn off electric at main box and gas at meter. If possible, move furniture to higher floor, sand bag openings, plug basement drains. When evacuating, recognize safety measures put in place for your protection. Do not drive around barricades. Do not go near culverts or streams.

## **FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

Federal regulations require permits for **all construction work** in the floodplain, including minor projects such as erecting a fence or mail box/sign post. Contact the Building Inspector before you fill, build or otherwise develop. If you see work underway without a permit, report this to the City by calling 255-6553.

## **CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

Federal regulations also require that if the total cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements within a ten year period, is equal to or exceeds 50% of the market value, the entire structure must meet the same construction requirements as a new building.

Contact the Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector early in your renovation planning process. They can save you time and dollars. A Zoning Hearing may be necessary to approve projects in the floodplain.

## **STREAM AND STORM SEWER OBSTRUCTIONS**

The City maintains storm drainage sewers and clears streams/river banks of debris. Report debris in the Paxton and Spring Creeks or the Susquehanna River to the Dept. of Public Works at 236-4802. City ordinances prohibit dumping in or near streams or obstructing the flow of streams. Report dumping in or near streams; you may receive a reward.

## **FLOODPLAIN'S NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

You can help preserve the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain by participating in three local non-profit groups: The Harrisburg Parks Partnership, Capital Greenbelt Association and Friends of Wildwood. The City and these groups have restored areas so that these areas can aid in flood control through the natural recycling of water, prevention of erosion, and preservation of plants and wildlife.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

More detailed information on the subjects discussed are available by calling 255-6553 or by consulting the Flood Protection Library at three public libraries in Harrisburg: 101 Walnut Street, 530 South 29th Street and 2410 North Third Street.



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